

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 198162
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:EESVENDSEN
APPROVED BY IO:GDALLEY
IO/UNP:PSBRIDGES
ARA/PPC:NSSMITH
S/S: YMARTIN

-----107512 050120Z /13

O R 050038Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198162

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, RQ, US

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: A) STATE 188247; B) USUN 3091

1. IN THE PERIOD SINCE WE INSTRUCTED EMBASSIES IN THE
COMMITTEE OF 24 CAPITALS TO MAKE A DEMARCHE ON PRESIDENT
CARTER'S PROCLAMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO
(REF A), WE HAVE RECEIVED NINE REACTIONS. LACK OF
RESPONSES FROM OTHER CAPITALS IS UNDOUBTEDLY DUE TO THE
FACT THAT SO MANY FOREIGN MINISTRIES WERE PREOCCUPIED
WITH NAM IN BELGRADE, AND OTHER RETURNS SHOULD BE IN
SOON. NONETHELESS, IT IS OBVIOUS FROM THOSE RESPONSES
RECEIVED AND THE RELATIVELY HARD LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO
ADOPTED AT BELGRADE, THAT WE WILL BE IN FOR A STRONG
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 198162

FIGHT WHEN THE COMMITTEE BEGINS DISCUSSIONS ON PUERTO
RICO.

2. THE REACTIONS TO DATE FROM C-24 CAPITALS OFFER FEW
SURPRISES. MOSCOW AND HAVANA'S POSITION IS NOT
ENCOURAGING. THE PRC IS PROBABLY LOCKED IN IDEOLOGICALLY
TO A NEGATIVE VOTE, DESPITE ITS DISTASTE FOR CUBAN

ACTIVITIES. (IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE

IN NEW YORK, USUN MIGHT RAISE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CHINESE ARRANGE TO BE ABSENT WHEN A VOTE IS TAKEN ON THE PROCEDURAL MOTION.) ON THE OTHER HAND, SWEDEN AND TUNISIA HAVE BOTH INDICATED THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR POSITION. AS USUN IS AWARE, THE PROSPECTS APPEAR REASONABLY GOOD THAT WE CAN RETAIN CHILE'S VOTE FOR DEFERRAL. THE TANZANIAN REPRESENTATIVE WHO RECEIVED OUR DEMARCHE WAS REPORTEDLY PLEASED WITH THE PROCLAMATION, BUT GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT HER COUNTRY'S POSITION WOULD BE. THERE ARE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR THE CONGO TO HOLD THE LINE AND NOT VOTE. KABUL HAS BEEN NONCOMMITTAL TO OUR APPROACHES ON PUERTO RICO, BUT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE QUESTION, AND WE MAY BE ABLE TO PERSUADE THE AFGHANIS TO ABSTAIN.

3. IT IS OBVIOUSLY TOO EARLY TO SAY HOW THE VOTE WILL COME OUT, BUT WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE PROCEDURAL MOTION TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION FOR ANOTHER YEAR WILL GARNER ENOUGH SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE. USINT HAVANA HAS URGED THAT THE USG BEGIN CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR A COMPROMISE RESOLUTION SHOULD THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE ISSUE PROVE UNSUCCESSFUL. THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBLE INTERMEDIATE STEPS WE MIGHT CONSIDER TAKING BETWEEN THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 198162

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO DEFER A DECISION AND THE ADOPTION OF A CUBAN RESOLUTION DECLARING PUERTO RICO TO BE A US COLONY. AMONG THESE ARE:

A) TO ARRANGE FOR ONE OF OUR FRIENDS ON THE COMMITTEE TO PUT IN A RESOLUTION SIMILAR TO THOSE ADOPTED IN 1972 AND 1973, WHICH COME CLOSE TO SAYING THAT PUERTO RICO IS A US COLONY WITHOUT ACTUALLY DOING IT. THESE EARLIER RESOLUTIONS WERE IN THE NATURE OF INTERNAL COMMITTEE DECISIONS; THEY WERE NOT SUBSEQUENTLY SENT ALONG TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR SEPARATE ACTION, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE INCLUDED IN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE GA.

B) TO HAVE OUR FRIENDS PUT FORTH A RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD REAFFIRM THE COMMITTEE'S VIEW THAT THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO HAVE A RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE (PERHAPS NOTING THE PRESIDENT'S JULY 25 PROCLAMATION), AND DECIDE TO KEEP THE ISSUE UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW.

4. IF WE DECIDE TO FOLLOW EITHER OF THE ABOVE, OR SOME

OTHER ALTERNATIVE, OUR TACTICAL HANDLING AND TIMING ON THE ISSUE WILL ASSUME CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE. WE DO NOT WISH TO WEAKEN THE RESOLVE OF OUR SUPPORTERS BY APPEARING WILLING TO ACCEPT IN ADVANCE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE PROCEDURAL MOTION. SHOULD IT BECOME CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROCEDURAL MOTION WOULD FAIL IT WILL BE OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE FOR OUR FRIENDS ON THE COMMITTEE TO SUBMIT A RESOLUTION AHEAD OF THE EXPECTED CUBAN TEXT, IN ORDER TO HAVE PRIORITY WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR A VOTE.

5. IF THE WORST COMES TO PASS AND THE CUBAN RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE, IT WOULD LIKELY COME UP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 198162

FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION TOWARD THE END OF THE SESSION, AND WE WOULD HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO PREPARE FOR OUR NEXT STEP. IT IS FOR THE COMMITTEE'S SESSIONS IN LATE AUGUST THAT WE MUST NOW PREPARE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE USUN'S REACTION TO THE POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION DESCRIBED ABOVE, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF THEIR LIKELY ACCEPTABILITY BY OUR FRIENDS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. USUN SHOULD NOT RPT NOT SOUND OUT OTHER DELEGATIONS OR IN ANY WAY INTIMATE THAT WE ARE PREPARING A FALL-BACK POSITION. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN ANY INDICATIONS THAT OTHER DELEGATIONS ARE CURRENTLY THINKING OF COMPROMISE FORMULATIONS BETWEEN THE PROCEDURAL MOTION TO DEFER THE ISSUE FOR YET ANOTHER YEAR AND AN EXPECTED CUBAN RESOLUTION DECLARING PUERTO RICO TO BE A US COLONY.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, INDEPENDENCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE198162
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EESVENDSEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780320-0253
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780894/aaaadapb.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b0791d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 188247, 78 USUN NEW YORK 3091
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1825266
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, RQ, US, UN, COMMITTEE OF 24
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b0791d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014